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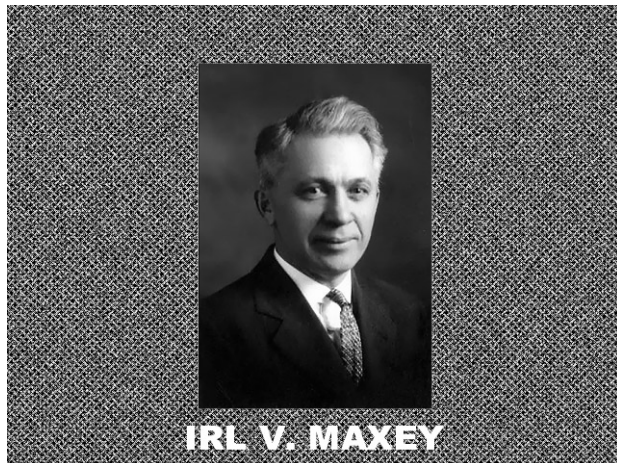
**CHRISTMAS SERMON #2
By Irl V. Maxey**

**Digitized and Edited
By Duane V. Maxey**

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INTRODUCTION TO THIS FILE

**This Christmas Sermon #2 was written on December 18, 1915. As mentioned
in the Introduction to Christmas Sermon #1 (hdm2529), I think this sermon may
have also been written in Ashton, Idaho. -- Duane V. Maxey, (Ahwatukee) Phoenix,
Arizona, February 10, 2006.**

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As I said this morning, I will use the same text tonight.

SERMON TEXT:

Luke 2:11 -- "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

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The idea of Christ was not an imaginary thing in the minds of some earthly potentates, or the machinations of men that has increased through the ages. Some people entertain the idea that there have been several such individuals on this earth -- some naming seven, I believe, and with comparison seem to belittle the life of Jesus and raise the other men to His level. I know they would name Siddhartha Gautama,* founder of Buddhism, Confucius, Mohammed, Socrates, and so on. There is no question but that these men sacrificed for the cause they stood for, and some even gave their lives, but no one of these undertook to save a world. Oh no.

[Both in this sermon and in the preceding Christmas Sermon, I was unable to discern for sure the name, which I supposed may have been meant to identify the founder of Buddhism. Papa's handwriting seemed to be something like "Sakya Mimi" but the last name was the most indiscernible. I found no such name in online searches. I did discover that "Siddhartha Gautama" was the founder of Buddhism. Thus, I have used this man's name. I hope I have not erred in thus identifying Siddhartha Gautama as the one papa intended to mention.]

So this idea of the coming Christ was not human, but God-given. Mrs. Eddy says Christ always existed as an idea in the mind of God. I tell you, only God could conceive and carry out the idea of saving a world, and no human being could do this. God only was equal to the task. It is somewhat suggested in myth and legend, such as Hercules performing great labors.

An idea finds expression in word and life. God, thinking in terms of humanity, in Christ Jesus, brought salvation through Man. God began to publish His idea of redeeming the world through a Person. Man wanted to do something, and do it for Himself, and that is the reason he fell. Also, man wanted to bring himself back. God gave the holy requirements called the law to show man he could not measure up, and that his salvation must come through the Divine Person.

The prophets received the idea and began at once to publish the coming of a Person. Peter says, "Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" (1 Peter 1:11).

The needs of the hour and the experiences of the people colored this idea, and caused it to be expressed variously. Also, their understanding would increase. Sometimes it was the Great Prophet when the people needed peculiar insight into the future. Moses told them of this Mighty Prophet. When the people were oppressed and no leader came to their rescue the prophets would grow eloquent in their description of the Great Leader Who was coming.*

[*I am sure that in the above paragraph and succeeding paragraphs my father is not suggesting that the prophets' descriptions of the coming Christ were human, and uninspired. He was saying, rather, that God used the various human needs and experiences of a given time to bring forth in His Word various aspects of the character and nature of the Great, Coming Savior.]

Isaiah says "Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people" (Isaiah 55:4). Again, there seems to come a great lack of knowledge, and the prophet says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6), and the "He Who is coming" would be a great Teacher -- one to teach the real meaning of the law.

When the glory of Solomon faded away like the dew before the sun's heat, and Israel became subjects of other countries, and Judas Maccabeus had failed to bring back the shattered forces of Israel, a King was needed, and people longed for this coming King and felt He would be a Mighty King Who would restore Israel. Oh, that Messiah would come, repulse Rome, restore the glories of Solomon, and make them a world power!

However, when many people followed close to God and they felt the spiritual shortage, they longed for this Personal Savior to deliver them from the strength of sin. "Oh! a Savior" they cried. So, Isaiah, who had been touched with a live coal from the altar, saw the needs of Israel as God saw them -- sheep without a shepherd. He described in Isaiah 53 how the Spirit would lead Christ, the Great Suffering Savior.

So, collectively the prophets had the idea of Christ, His Person and Office very completely, and this is not strange for they endeavored to live close to God. God also came to the humble laity and many times to the human hunger of many Gentiles.

A multitude of angels shouting, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14) was the scene visited upon the wandering view of the shepherds on the hillside as they watched their flocks by night. They feared and were ready to flee. Men feel like fleeing many times from the greatest messages to earth. But "Fear Not" was the message of the angel of the Lord. "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11).

The wise men saw the Heavens and Earth rejoiced at the advent of God to His creation, and they followed the radiance of the star. Nearer and Nearer came the star till the luster of it rested over where the child lay. How necessary for the idea, not only to be expressed in words, but to take the form of life -- born of earthly parentage.

To be a Savior, Christ must be born. He must be natural -- have all the characteristics of any child -- be hungry and cry -- He must develop in mind and body and spirit life as any child, and yet be perfect in all these things.

Now I am certain somebody missed a chance of a lifetime. If someone had said, "Joseph and Mary, I open to you my doors while you are here to be taxed. Come, stay at my house." -- then down through the ages would have come the story like Mary Magdalene anointing the feet of Jesus. But no one opened their doors. There was no room in the inn, so He was born in that old stone stable under the hill.

I feel God honored humanity when He gave the responsibility of rearing Jesus to Joseph and Mary. Oh, how often our hearts ache when we try to care for infants. They cry, and we wonder what is the matter and sometimes wish they tell us what ails them. Dangers, dangers, so many infants die before they reach womanhood or manhood, and yet Christ took these dangers. Oh, you can not say He did not face dangers, for then He could not have partaken of the flesh and blood. As Hebrews says He did. "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same.." (Heb. 2:14). He did face dangers in the flesh, and Joseph and Mary are to be trusted for His care.

The old City of David is to be honored. Bethlehem is going to be visited by the Lord of Hosts and honored as the place where God comes to earth, honors humanity and saves the world. Oh David, the kingdom of your Lord is established on your posterity.

NOW Christ IS born. Your calendar and your almanac proclaim He is born! He is born! The year 1915 says, Back yonder Christ was born. You read history's pages and it says, Christ is the Central Figure of all history. History is but "His-Story". Literature says, Christ is born in every [tens...?]* verse. Art proclaims on every colored canvas, Christ is born! Christ is born! And every field of learning, from the stratified earth to shining stars in the heavens, says Christ is born!

[*I could not make out the word papa used here. It looked like "tens"-something.]

We know He is born, not only because of history, art, literature, and science, but we meet the proclamation everywhere: Christ is born unto you! Christ is born!

Do you know Christ is born to you? Do you experience that fact?

A little girl who was poor had to be taken to the hospital. She knew Christ and the fact that He was born her Savior. "Unto you is born a Saviour." It made her very happy indeed. She watched her nurse as she went to and fro about her work. The little girl was too sick to be allowed to talk, but she stopped the nurse one day and asked her if she knew about Christ being born.

"Shh..., shh..., shhh...", said the nurse, "you must not talk."

"Well," said the little girl, "I just thought from the way you looked you had not heard of His being born."

The nurse stopped and asked the little girl, "Why?"

"Oh," she said, "you look so glum."

Oh! LOOK IT, BE IT, AND KNOW IT! if Christ is born to you a Savior.

Christ, Whom the prophets proclaimed came to earth in body surely, and the angels rang out the Old Story so sweet to us. But I tell you, Christ is come to earth in the Person of the Holy Spirit poured out on Pentecost. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39).

Jesus prayed for His disciples to be holy, and then said, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word" (John 17:20).

Christ is born tonight. He is here, though unseen by mortal eye. Unless the news reaches beyond the grasp of your intellect, and touches the very center of your moral consciousness and affection, it will not be much more than if you had never heard of Him. Oh! friends! Christ is born! Christ is born!

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THE END OF THIS SERMON